

PROJECT UPDATE! J Herbert Stone Nursery is located on a 306-acre parcel at 2606 Old Stage Road, Central Point, Oregon in Jackson County. The nursery is administrated by the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest; however, it is located outside the national forest boundary. Nursery operations were documented in this video featuring none other than Martha Stewart. <http://www.marthastewart.com/912959/profiling-j-herbert-stone-nursery-oregon>.

A few years ago, J Herbert Stone Nursery embarked on a study of the pesticides in use and considered for use at the nursery. After site-specific, comprehensive pesticide risk assessment, we are ready to propose changes to our pesticide use. Careful pesticide use has been part of the integrated pest management program at the nursery for the past 40 years. In that time, the plant products grown at the nursery have diversified. We now grow grass seed, hardwood shrubs, and native flowers along with conifers for restoration of National Forest and other lands. This has resulted in need for changes in the way pesticides are used at the nursery. Also, we have learned more about the pesticides and their toxicity, mobility and persistence in the environment so that we can adjust pesticide use to minimize risk.

The term “pesticides” includes several chemicals needed at the nursery: herbicides to treat weeds and invasive plants within and adjacent to nursery beds; insecticides to respond to harmful pest outbreaks; fungicides to treat fungal diseases; a fumigant to sterilize soils; and a disinfectant to kill blue-green algae in a small reservoir. These pesticides are required so that we can reliably produce high quality container, bareroot, and seed crops at a cost that is affordable to nursery clients.

We are proposing to update the list of pesticides currently in use at the nursery, and add some design features associated with their use. Existing pesticide use would be modified to increase cost-effectiveness and reduce risks to nursery workers and the environment.

Pesticide use would meet the following objectives:

- ❖ Address known and potential pests including problem weeds, insects, fungi, soil organisms and algae.
- ❖ Provide more choices to reduce reliance on a single product or type of product and reduce potential for pesticide resistance. For instance, more herbicide choices may result in less need for the soil fumigant.
- ❖ Provide for worker safety.
- ❖ Minimize risk to aquatic habitats and organisms.
- ❖ Minimize or restrict use of more toxic, mobile and persistent synthetic chemicals.

The environmental documentation (Decision Memo/Categorical Exclusion) for this project is expected to be completed early Spring 2020. Pesticide use at the nursery is covered by an administrative site category and we do not believe there are any extraordinary circumstances related to the project. Please let us know if you have questions or comments about the nursery project. Information about the proposed action, and the pesticides and project design features for their use is available on request by contacting Rochelle Desser; NEPA Team Leader ([rochelle\\_desser@yahoo.com](mailto:rochelle_desser@yahoo.com)) or John Justin; Nursery Manager ([john.justin@usda.gov](mailto:john.justin@usda.gov)). We welcome your input; the public scoping period is open until October 15, 2019.